NUMB. XXXIV.

The SPECTATOR.

——parcit
Cognatis maculis ſimilis fera—— Juv.

Monday, April 9. 1711.

THE Club of which I am a Member, is very luckily compos'd of ſuch Perſons as are engag'd in different Ways of Life, and deputed as it were out of the moſt conſpicuous Claſſes of Mankind: By this Means I am furniſh'd with the greateſt Variety of Hints and Materials, and know every thing that paſſes in the different Quarters and Diviſions, not only of this great City, but of the whole Kingdom. My Readers too have the Satisfaction to find, that there is no Rank or Degree among them who have not their Repreſentative in this Club, and that there is always ſome Body preſent who will take Care of their reſpective Intereſts, that nothing may be written or publiſh'd to the Prejudice or Infringement of their juſt Rights and Privileges.

I laſt Night ſat very late in company with this ſelect Body of Friends, who entertain'd me with ſeveral Remarks which they and others had made upon theſe my Speculations, as alſo with the various Succeſs which they had met with among their ſeveral Ranks and Degrees of Readers. WILL. HONEYCOMBE told me, in the ſofteſt Manner he could, That there were ſome Ladies (but for your Comfort, ſays WILL. they are not thoſe of the moſt Wit) that were offended at the Liberties I had taken with the Opera and the Puppet-Show: That ſome of them were likewiſe very much ſurpriz'd, that I ſhould think ſuch ſerious Points as the Dreſs and Equipage of Perſons of Quality, proper Subjects for Raillery.

He was going on, when Sir ANDREW FREEPORT took him up ſhort, and told him, That the Papers he hinted at, had done great Good in the City, and that all their Wives and Daughters were the better for them: And further added, That the whole City thought themſelves very much obliged to me for declaring my generous Intentions to ſcourge Vice and Folly as they appear in a Multitude, without condeſcending to be a Publiſher of particular Intrigues and Cuckoldoms. In ſhort, ſays Sir ANDREW, if you avoid that fooliſh beaten Road, of falling upon Aldermen and Citizens, and employ your Pen upon the Vanity and Luxury of Courts, your Paper muſt needs be of general Uſe.

Upon this my Friend the TEMPLAR told Sir ANDREW, That he wonder'd to hear a Man of his Senſe talk after that Manner; that the City had always been the Province for Satyr; and that the Wits of King *Charles's* Time jeſted upon nothing elſe during his whole Reign. He then ſhew'd by the Examples of *Horace*, *Juvenal*, *Boileau*, and the beſt Writers of every Age, that the Follies of the Stage and Court had never been accounted too ſacred for Ridicule, how great ſoever the Perſons might be that patroniz'd them. But after all, ſays he, I think your Raillery has made too great an Excurſion, in attacking ſeveral Perſons of the Inns of Court; and I do not believe you can ſhew me any Precedent for your Behaviour in that Particular.

My good Friend Sir ROGER DE COVERLY, who had ſaid nothing all this while, began his Speech with a Piſh! and told us, That he wonder'd to ſee ſo many Men of Senſe ſo very ſerious upon Fooleries. Let our good Friend, ſays he, attack every one that deſerves it: I would only adviſe you, Mr. SPECTATOR, applying himſelf to me, to take Care how you meddle with Country Squires: They are the Ornaments of the Engliſh Nation; Men of good Heads and ſound Bodies! and let me tell you, ſome of them take it ill of you that you mention Fox-hunters with ſo little Reſpect.

Captain SENTRY ſpoke very ſparingly on this Occaſion. What he ſaid was only to commend my Prudence in not touching upon the Army, and adviſed me to continue to act diſcreetly in that Point.

By this Time I found every Subject of my Speculations was taken away from me by one or other of the Club; and began to think my ſelf in the Condition of the good Man that had one Wife who took a Diſlike to his grey Hairs, and another to his black, till by their picking out what each of them had an Averſion to, they left his Head altogether bald and naked.

While

While I was thus muſing with my ſelf, my worthy Friend the Clergy-man, who, very luckily for me, was at the Club that Night, undertook my Cauſe. He told us, That he wonder'd any Order of Perſons ſhould think themſelves too conſiderable to be adviſ'd: That it was not Quality, but Innocence which exempted Men from Reproof: That Vice and Folly ought to be attacked wherever they could be met with, and eſpecially when they were placed in high and conſpicuous Stations of Life. He further added, That my Paper would only ſerve to aggravate the Pains of Poverty, if it chiefly expos'd thoſe who are already depreſs'd, and in ſome Meaſure turn'd into Ridicule, by the Meanneſs of their Conditions and Circumſtances. He afterwards proceeded to take Notice of the great Uſe this Paper might be of to the Publick, by reprehending thoſe Vices which are too trivial for the Chaſtiſement of the Law, and too fantaſtical for the Cognizance of the Pulpit. He then adviſ'd me to proſecute my Undertaking with Chearfulneſs; and aſſur'd me, that whoever might be diſpleas'd with me, I ſhould be approv'd by all thoſe whoſe Praiſes do Honour to the Perſons on whom they are beſtow'd.

The whole Club pays a particular Deference to the Diſcourſe of this Gentleman, and are drawn into what he ſays as much by the candid and ingenuous Manner with which he delivers himſelf, as by the Strength of Argument and Force of Reaſon which he makes uſe of. WILL. HONEYCOMBE immediately agreed, that what he had ſaid was right; and that for his Part, he would not inſiſt upon the Quarter which he had demanded for the Ladies. Sir ANDREW gave up the City with the ſame Frankneſs. The TEMPLAR would not ſtand out; and was followed by Sir ROGER and the CAPTAIN: Who all agreed that I ſhould be at Liberty to carry the War into what Quarter I pleaſed; provided I continued to combat with Criminals in a Body, and to aſſault the Vice without hurting the Perſon.

This Debate, which was held for the Good of Mankind, put me in Mind of that which the *Roman* Triumvirate were formerly engaged in, for their Deſtruction. Every Man at firſt ſtood hard for his Friend, till they found that by this Means they ſhould ſpoil their Proſcription: And at length, making a Sacrifice of all their Acquaintance and Relations, furniſhed out a very decent Execution.

Having thus taken my Reſolutions to march on boldly in the Cauſe of Virtue and good Senſe, and to annoy their Adverſaries in whatever Degree or Rank of Men they may be found: I ſhall be deaf for the future to all the Remonſtrances that ſhall be made to me on this Account. If *Punch* grow extravagant, I ſhall reprimand him very freely: If the Stage becomes a Nurſery of Folly and Impertinence, I ſhall not be afraid to animadvert upon it. In ſhort, If I meet with any thing in City, Court, or Country, that ſhocks Modeſty or good Manners, I ſhall uſe my utmoſt Endeavours to make an Example of it. I muſt however intreat every particular Perſon, who does me the Honour to be a Reader of this Paper, never to think himſelf, or any one of his Friends or Enemies, aimed at in what is ſaid: For I promiſe him, never to draw a faulty Character which does not fit at leaſt a Thouſand People; or to publiſh a ſingle Paper, that is not written in the Spirit of Benevolence and with a Love to Mankind.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

For the Entertainment of ſeveral Foreign Miniſters.

AT Stationer's-Hall near Ludgate, on Wedneſday the 11th of April, will be an extraordinary Conſert of Vocal and Inſtrumental Muſick, by the beſt Perſo mers: Particularly ſeveral ſelect Entertainments o t of the following Engliſh Operas, (viz.) The Fairy Queen; King Arthur; Indian Queen; Diocleſian; with the Maſque in Timon of Athens: All compo'd by that great Maſter the late Mr. Henry Purcell. For the B nefit of Mr. Cuthbert and Mr. Smith. Tickets may be had at Will's Coffee houſe in Cornhill, at the Rainbow Coffee-houſe in Fleet ſtreet, at the Tilt-yard Coffee-houſe at Whitehall, and at Stationer's-Hall, at 5 s. per Ticket.

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The NATURE of MAN. A Poem. In three Books. Printed for Sam. Buckley in Little-Britain; and ſold by S. Crouch in Cornhill; J. Churchill in Pater-noſter-row, D. Midwinter in St. Paul's Church-yard, Jacob Tonſon over againſt Catherine-ſtreet in the Strand, and A. Baldwin in Warwick-Lane.

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The Dutch Gardener: or, the Compleat Floriſt: Containing the moſt ſucceſsful Method of cultivating all Sorts of Flowers; the Planting, Dreſſing and Pruning of all Manner of Fruit-Trees: Together with a particular Account of the Nurſing of Lemon and Orange Trees in Northern Climates. Written in Dutch by Henry Van Ooſten, the Leiden Gardener. Tranſlated into Engliſh. The 2d Edition, with great Amendments. Printed for D. Midwinter at the 3 Crowns in St. Paul's Church-yard.

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